

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 16, 2008. Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15, 18-21 and 37-42 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 8 and 15 are in independent form. Claims 1, 8, 15, 18 and 37-39 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention.. Claims 40-42 have been added. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15, 18-22 and 37-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,266,693 (Onaga) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,622,157 (Heddaya et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,615,207 (Lawrence) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,452,692 (Yacoub). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that independent Claims 1, 8, and 15, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to include a first display means which displays a printer folder for printer management (supported, for example, by Fig. 4, element 41), the printer folder including a search icon (Fig. 4, element 41a), a designation means which designates the search icon included in the display printer folder (Fig. 6, S11), and a search means which searches for a plurality of printing devices provided on a network in response to the designation of the search icon (Fig. 6,S20). The other portions of the claim have been amended correspondingly.^{1/}

^{1/} It is of course to be understood that the claim scope is not limited by the details of this or any other particular embodiment that may be referred to.

None of the cited patents discloses or suggests the designation means or the search means as claimed.

The Examiner states on page 7, lines 7-10 of the Office Action: “when combined with the printer proximity of *Yacoub* the Examiner believes that one skilled in the art would lead one skilled in the art to combine the two references to provide a faster response time with less network traffic.” The aspects of the present invention set forth in the independent claims, however, detect the printing device closest to the client apparatus in terms of network, not only for a faster response time but also for improved security. For this reason, the information processing apparatus of Claim 1 includes the control means, which controls the display such that the first specific object is displayed in the tree list with a higher display priority than the seconds specific object *if a number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the first printing device and said information processing apparatus is smaller than a number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the second printing device and said information processing apparatus*. For at least this reason, Applicant does not agree that a person of ordinary skill would have been led by the prior art to an apparatus or method having the structure recited in the independent claims.

A review of the other art of record has filed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Leonard P Diana/

Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

FOHS_WS 2389091v1